

SEAMAN'S ACT
TAKES FLEET
FROM PACIFIC

The Pacific Mail Steamship Company Disposes of Five Ships Engaged in Trade With the Ports of the Orient

EACH TO MAKE ONE MORE TRIP

Company Says Unable to Employ Cheap Labor Speaking Same Language as Officers and Compete With Japanese Lines

(Associated Press Dispatch)

NEW YORK, Aug. 13.—The Pacific Mail Steamship Company announced today that it had decided to dispose of its fleet and other property, sold five steamers to the Atlantic Transport Company of West Virginia. The steamers sold are the Manchuria, Mongolia, Korea, Siberia and China. The terms are not mentioned.

The last sailing from San Francisco by any of these vessels to Oriental ports under the Pacific Mail flag will be on August 25 by the Mongolia.

The terms of the Seaman's law, passed at the last session of congress caused the sale, as the company claimed it was impossible to compete with the Japanese lines. Many members of the crews, chiefly in the firerooms, are cheap coolie labor and under the new law the company would have to replace them with men speaking the same language as the officers.

It is stated this is one of the most onerous clauses of the new law, but there are others that contributed to the decision of the company to dispose of its property. The vessels are the largest and best in the Pacific Mail service.

Franklin said the steamers will be transferred to the company as soon as possible, to be used in the regular trade of the Atlantic Transport Company, which operates between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and European ports and between New York and San Francisco. As to whether the steamers would remain under the American flag, Franklin said this would be determined by the insurance and other matters.

Franklin said the Atlantic Transport Company purchased the steamers to help out the regular fleet, which was unable to carry all the freight offered.

Takes Large Fleet Away
SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13.—The sale of five Pacific Mail liners announced in New York takes from the Trans-Pacific passenger trade the largest fleet of vessels flying the American flag. There remain the two vessels of the Oceanic Steamship Company, plying from San Francisco to Australia, the Great Northern steamer Minnesota, Seattle to Japan and China, and army transports, which carry passengers and a limited amount of commercial cargoes to the Philippines.

There are two vessels belonging to the Dollar Steamship Company flying the stars and stripes that operate between the Pacific coast and the Orient in the freight trade. In addition, several Standard Oil vessels make the Oriental run with cases oil and return cargoes if they can get them, and there are a few small tramp vessels, most of them under canvas, that sometimes cross the Pacific.

Six steamers of the Pacific Mail line will continue to operate in the Panama canal trade until another purchaser appears, it was announced. The five liners are to be turned over to the new owners at San Francisco upon their return from their present voyages, which end on the following dates:

The Korea on September 7, the Siberia on September 13, the China on September 27, the Manchuria on October 4, and the Mongolia on October 22.

As soon as practicable after these dates the vessels are to be delivered.

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Copperfield Nearly Wiped
Out By Incendiary Fire

(Associated Press Dispatch)
BAKER ORE, Aug. 13.—Copperfield, which came into prominence when Miss Fern Hobbs closed the saloons under orders from Governor West, more than a year ago, was practically wiped out last night by a fire believed to have been incendiary.

All the buildings were frame structures of cheap construction. The damage is estimated at less than \$50,000. All wire communication had

VON HINDENBURG TAKES
COMMAND OF THE ARMY
NOW ATTACKING KOVNO

ADMITS EVACUATION
OF THREE TOWNS

PETROGRAD, Aug. 12.—The Russian war office in an official communication tonight admits the evacuation of the towns of Siedlitz, Siedlitz and Lukow to the east of Warsaw, but claims the Germans in the region of Riga were driven back and that near Kovno under pressure from the Russians they abandoned the attack.

YOUNG TURKS
WOULD BREAK
WITH ITALY

Urge This to Free Turkey from "Leading Spy," Nately the Italian Ambassador, and Also Adopt Measures Against Italy

(Associated Press Dispatch)

ROME, Aug. 13.—Reports received from Constantinople state that the Young Turks held a meeting at which Enver Pasha, the Turkish war minister, urged the necessity of breaking relations with Italy, and thus free Turkey from the "leading spy."

After long discussion, it is reported, the meeting decided to postpone definite decision.

Fall Into Trap

LONDON, (Saturday) Aug. 14.—Several German army groups in the Russian war theater have fallen into the trap of the Grand Duke Nicholas and are in the gravest danger, according to the Daily Telegraph's Petrograd correspondent.

Submarine Sinks India

LONDON, Aug. 13.—A Christmas dispatch to Reuters says the Norwegian government contends that the British auxiliary cruiser India was sunk by a German submarine in Norwegian territorial waters. The India was torpedoed August 5.

AUSTRIAN SUBMARINE SUNK

ROME, Aug. 13.—The ministry of Marine tonight made public the following official bulletin:

"Yesterday morning in the lower Adriatic the Austrian submarine U-3 was sunk. The second officer and eleven men of the crew were saved and made prisoners."

(Continued on Page Four)

Duma Probes Situation

(Associated Press Dispatch)
PETROGRAD, Aug. 13.—Details given the press of a secret session of the Duma on August 10 showed that an inquiry was initiated to determine the responsibility for the deficiency of war supplies. A demand was made for an immediate cessation of alleged irregularities in manufacturing war supplies, and a correction of the shortage of ammunition. General Polunov, minister of war, declared for the purpose of the inquiry, into all that has taken place to bring the army into its difficult position there will be appointed a commission of inquiry and an investigation will be set on foot. In the inquiry the commission will have the aid of both the members of the Duma and the council of the empire.

FOR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
OF STATE TAX OFFICERS

(Associated Press Dispatch)
SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 13.—George Lord of Detroit, Mich., secretary of the Michigan Tax Association, urged the formation of a national organization of state tax officers in an address today before the ninth annual conference of the National Tax Association.

"I believe a national association of this character," he said, "holding annual conventions, would do more than any other agency could do toward a solution of the vexed tax problem with which many if not all of the states are confronted."

The trouble with our tax system is not so much statutory as administrative. No state, I think, is suffering to a great extent because of too little tax legislation. It is not new tax legislation that we most want, but a simplification of the laws already have and improved methods of their administration.

"In nearly every state, we find the 'tax doctor' who, wherever any tax bill appears to him, runs to the legislature for a remedy. The result is that we are almost constantly enacting new tax legislation, which becomes more and more confusing to the tax-paying people. The influence of a national association of tax officers would surely work for improvement in such conditions."

Mr. Lord cited the present association of state tax officials of the New England states as evidence of the beneficial results to be obtained.

"There is no question," he said, "that these meetings of taxing officials, where administrative problems are freely discussed, are productive of much good in that there is an apparent improvement in administrative methods and a better understanding of the governing tax statutes. It is hoped that those states which have not yet formed similar organization will soon do so."

DRIVERS QUIT
IN ST. LOUIS
RIOT FOLLOWS

Running Fight Between Five Hundred Strikers and Three Non-Union Drivers and Police Brings Out Reserves

SCORE INJURED BY BRICKS

Strike Resulted from the Failure of Union Team Owners to Sign Contract for More Wages and Shorter Hours

(Associated Press Dispatch)

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 13.—A running fight between five hundred strikers and sympathizers on one side, and three non-union drivers and a score of police on the other, which terminated in a riot in front of the St. Louis Transfer company's stable, tonight was the initial act of violence of the strike of 1,500 transfer drivers and chauffeurs which began today. A score were injured by bricks and stones, none seriously.

Officers of the teamsters' union said the riot was the work of irresponsible sympathizers. They said they intended to conduct the strike without violence.

The fight began at a postoffice sub-station, where twenty pickets were waiting for three drivers who had been hauling mail during the day.

Only one policeman was at the station but he held off the strikers while the last load of mail was being taken from the wagons. As the empty wagons started for the stables the crowd was considerably augmented. The policeman, foreseeing trouble, turned in a riot call. Before the wagons had gone a half dozen blocks, five hundred men and boys were getting the drivers with stones. The first sound of police arrived here, but the crowd was too big for them. The prisoner was rescued by the crowd before the patrol box was reached.

A little farther more police met the rapidly growing mob and again attempted an arrest. Again the strikers and sympathizers effected a rescue. Lashing their horses to the street, the drivers made a final dash and reached the stable two blocks away.

The police used their clubs freely during the riot in an effort to regain possession of their prisoners and eye-witnesses declared later that the drivers were fired on twice by men in the crowd. Neither of the shots is said to have taken effect.

Between 1200 and 1500 teamsters employed by the various transfer companies of St. Louis are idle as a result of the strike which brought about a partial paralysis in the movement of freight into and out of the city.

Approximately one thousand other employees of transfer companies are thrown out of work. These include warehouse employees, clerks and more than one hundred girls employed by the transfer companies in the offices.

The strike resulted from the failure of the union and the team owners to sign a new contract for July 31. The men submitted a new contract which included wage increases from \$1.50 to \$6.00 a week. A reduction in working days from eleven to ten hours was also asked.

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The team owners refused the wage increase and reduction in hours, although they agreed to abolish Sunday work and make certain other concessions in working conditions.

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PAN AMERICAN APPEAL
FOR PEACE IN MEXICO
BEGINS TO GO FORWARD

First Document Dispatched in English to Mexico City Directed to the Various Latin-American Legations to Be Translated

DIRECT APPEAL TO THE CHIEFS

Today Document in Original Spanish Will Be Sent Carranza, Villa and Others—Opposition Expected from Carranza

(Associated Press Dispatch)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The Pan-American appeal to all elements in Mexico to cease fighting and join a movement to restore a constitutional government began to go forward from the state department tonight. The first document was dispatched in English to Mexico City and was directed to various Latin-American legations whose attaches will translate it into Spanish and deliver to the military leaders in that vicinity.

Tomorrow the appeal in original Spanish will be forwarded directly to Villa, Carranza, governors of the states and many other chiefs in different parts of the country. The text will be made public here in a few days. Carranza is the only chief expected to oppose the movement, and even in some quarters it is believed he may respond favorably after he has studied its friendly tone carefully.

With the appeal dispatched the United States will institute a friendly and persistent effort to induce Mexican leaders who have thus far shown a disposition to oppose the movement to sacrifice their personal views in common with the Mexican interest. It is expected that Carranza will maintain the defiance indicated in the recent communications to his agency, but it is regarded as probable that many of his generals and other adherents can be induced to join the peace convention. It is believed here if a few Carranza generals participate in the convention of factions it will not be long before organized opposition to a new government could be effectively checked.

In this connection it has been reported that General High Scott, chief of staff of the army, who is remaining at the border at the request of the state department, is expected to perform important missionary work. General Scott knows many of the Mexican military leaders personally and it is believed he may exert a powerful influence.

Absolutely no resistance to the plan is expected from any source other than Carranza. General Villa and his adherents made it clear in a statement issued by Diaz Lombardo, for-

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Means "Call To Arms"
(Associated Press Dispatch)
LAREDO, Aug. 13.—A Carranza newspaper in this city prints an editorial which is regarded among the susceptible element of the Mexicans here as "a call to arms." Translations of the editorial have been forwarded to Washington and to General Funston. The editorial says in part:

"If you are Mexicans read Article 31 of the constitution, which says, 'It is the obligation of every Mexican to defend the independence, honor, rights and interests of the fatherland.' and read Article 25 of the constitution, which says: 'It is the prerogative of every Mexican citizen to take up arms for the defense of the republic or its institutions; that is to say, it is not only an obligation to defend the republic when its sovereignty is attacked but it is their prerogative, right and honor to do so.'"

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CREW DOWN WITH BERRI-BERRI

PORT ANGELES, Wash., Aug. 13.—The Peruvian bark Alliance arrived from Callao, Peru, with all members of the crew except the captain suffering from berri-berri. During the voyage five of the crew died from the disease and were buried at sea. The Alliance, loaded with sugar, experienced bad weather throughout the voyage.

SITUATION ON
BORDER STILL
THREATENING

While President Confers With Breckenridge, Texan Tell Funston Mexicans Prepared to Execute Plan of San Diego

(Associated Press Dispatch)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—The Mexican border situation continues to absorb attention in official quarters, and was the subject of a conference between the president and Assistant Secretary Breckenridge of the war department. The battleships New Hampshire and Louisiana are expected to reach Mexican waters within a few days. It is regarded as practically certain that at least one ship will be ordered to proceed directly to Vera Cruz harbor.

Say Invasion Threatened

SAN ANTONIO, Aug. 13.—A committee of citizens headed by Representative Garner of Texas made a report to the Governor and General Funston. Speaking for the committee, Garner said that leading business men believed constituted Mexican authorities along the border were prepared in the event American troops were again landed at Vera Cruz to make a dash at Texas and attempt to carry out the plan of San Diego.

He said of course they would be driven back, but not before they had destroyed life and valuable property.

Villa Abandons Plan

EL PASO, Aug. 13.—Villa has abandoned the plan of selling paper currency to mining corporations at a reduced value of thirty cents gold per peso, it was stated by a representative of the mining concerns. The companies are permitted to pay employees in silver, it is said, and permission to ship goods to the interior has been restored.

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ITALY TURNS
DOWN LARGE
WHEAT ORDERS

Estimated That Orders for More Than 2,000,000 Bushels of Wheat Were Cancelled Within Twenty-four Hours

CAUSES WILD MARKET DROP

Believed to Have Been Result of Italian Government's Effort to Fix Maximum Price to Circumvent Speculation

(Associated Press Dispatch)

CHICAGO, Aug. 13.—An authoritative explanation was obtained tonight for the sensational action of exporters in suddenly cancelling during the last forty-eight hours contracts for large amounts of wheat purchased in the United States, roundly estimated at 2,000,000 bushels. The announcement of the cancellations caused wheat prices to break wildly, the downward plunge at one time amounting to as much as four to four and one-eighth cents a bushel, and smashing the market to \$1.07 for September delivery.

Most of the contracts were cancelled on wheat intended for Italy. The buyers, however, according to one of the largest exporters here, found all the prospective buyers cut off by the plan of the Italian government to fix minimum prices or to otherwise circumvent speculation.

A careful statement of the situation resulting was made tonight by the exporter referred to. He did so after consulting a prominent Italian here who is said to be in a position to know the facts. The statement said the high rate of exchange between the United States and Italy, which is now about twenty-two per cent over normal, was also likely to prevent large purchases of wheat in the United States for Italy and Argentina was about normal, and if there was no substantial decline in North America before winter, the Italian demand would probably fall on Argentina.

The statement follows: "It has been said the Italian government has authorized the repatriation of enormous outstanding purchases of wheat. While there seems no doubt that cancellations have been effected, the occasion thereof should no doubt be laid to a different cause."

"In the first place, the Italian government could not lawfully authorize such a procedure, and even if such authority were vested in the officials at Rome, to exercise it would be the beginning of the destruction of her credit with the United States. What happened is very probably this:

"There has been the last few weeks a large amount of wheat bought by Italian firms or private individuals, and to such parties the Italian government may have issued an order prohibiting or regulating speculation by Italian grain dealers with millers and consumers throughout the kingdom, and on this account the Italian importer may have figured there was a greater advantage in sacrificing the profit on purchases from the United States than letting the contracts to be shipped showing good paper profits but on which more might be lost by effort of the Italian government to give the consumer as cheap wheat as possible. Much wheat bought by Italy last winter was resold to the consumer at cost."

"Just now the government of Italy is not likely to buy wheat from the United States, not only because they think our prices are too high, but on account of the high exchange. The exchange between the United States and Italy is about 22 per cent over normal. The basis between Argentina and Italy is approximately normal. Some of the Italian wheat producers there will be no buying of wheat by their government until January. If there is no substantial demand then it probably will fall to Argentina."

BIG FOREST FIRE
REDDING, Aug. 13.—A big forest fire is raging on Chalk mountain, east of Big Bend on the Flat River. Every available man is fighting the flames along a ten mile front.

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